

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/953-2139 nightline: 953-2104

Monday, August 5, 1991 O&amp;E

(F18)

## Hockey hopeful

## Gilmore seeks spot on Olympic team

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Mike Gilmore of Farmington Hills has been an underdog other times and come out on top, so the 23-year-old hockey player isn't afraid of increasing stakes in pursuit of his next goal.

Gilmore, who rose from walk-on status to become the No. 1 goalkeeper on the Michigan State University team, is trying to make the United States Olympic team this summer.

"I've always been a longshot everywhere I've gone," Gilmore said. "I've already had a taste of what it takes. I've always had to work for it."

Gilmore would like to follow in the footsteps of Jim Craig, the goalie for the 1980 U.S. team, which won the gold medal. To do that, he's prepared to give his best effort again.

"Ever since the '80 Olympics, any kid who played hockey and was American wanted to play in the Olympics," he said. "I watch the tape of when (the U.S.) beat the Russians, and it still gives me chills."

GILMORE, WHO attended Our Lady of Sorrows and graduated from Redford Catholic Central in 1985, is spending a lot of time in St. Cloud, Minn. He was there in July for the Olympic Sports Festival and returned last week for the Olympic Trials camp.

Twenty-nine of the 80 college players at the Sports Fest were invited to the Olympic camp, where they were joined by a half dozen pro play-

ers, most of whom have played in the minor leagues.

"I'll probably have to stop every shot they send at me," Gilmore said. "I'll go there and do what I have been doing, keep my concentration level up and not be intimidated by the pros."

Gilmore, who says he is coming from "virtual obscurity" in his attempt to make the team, is considered a longshot since he will be one of at least four goalies in camp.

He and Mike Dunham of Maine are the only college players, while a trio from the NHL farm system — Robb Stauber, Guy Herbert and Pat Jablonski — were expected to join them.

"It's going to be really tough," said Gilmore, adding the team will be selected not long after camp opens. "You've only got so many days to show them what you've got."

"I COULD BE there six days or six months, because if I make it I won't be coming home. I could be shipping out to Europe, or I could be back here in a couple days."

A plus for Gilmore is the fact he played previously for U.S. Olympic coach Dave Peterson at the Praxda Cup series in the Soviet Union last April.

His performance in those games and the Sports Fest, which served as the first stage in the Olympic selection process, earned him a return trip to St. Cloud and a second look, according to Peterson.

Team USA won just one of four games in Len-

ingrad, but Gilmore played well enough to make the all-star team. In the Sports Fest, he played 3½ of the four games after the other goalies got hurt and helped the North win the gold medal.

"I was up against the top American competition," Gilmore said. "If you didn't play at the top of your game, you were at the bottom."

Gilmore is a little surprised at how fast his stock has rocketed upward.

He was drafted a year ago by the New York Rangers in the NHL supplemental draft but returned to MSU, not knowing how much playing time he would receive.

GILMORE BECAME the top netminder, sharing time with Jason Muzzatti and developing a reputation for quality play, which led to the post-season invitations. Now he's on the verge of becoming an Olympian, too.

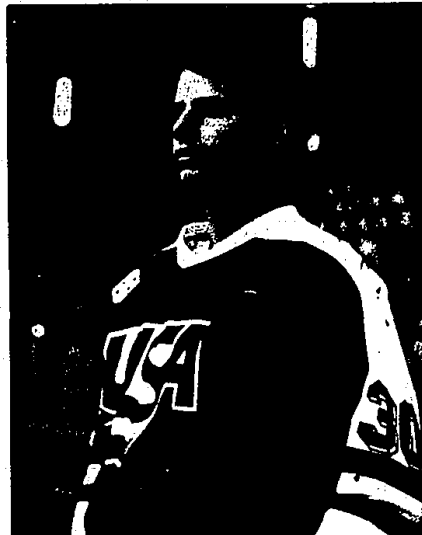
"They usually groom these guys from the time they're 16 years old," Gilmore said. "Not in my wildest imaginings did I think I would be standing where I am today."

Gilmore has other options, however, and will wait to see what his role might be if he does make the Olympic team.

Gilmore has a fifth year eligibility remaining at MSU and will return to play a final season for the Spartans if he ends up being a third-string goalie for the Olympic team.

"If I'm only going to play a few games, it's not

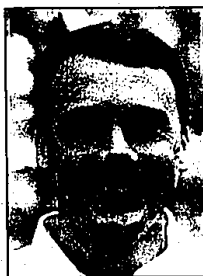
Please turn to Page 2



Mike Gilmore of Farmington Hills played for Team USA in the Praxda Cup and now hopes to make the U.S. Olympic team.



Peter Mantyla  
Harrison basketball



Brian Swinehart  
Farmington basketball



Luke Juncal  
Farmington soccer

## New coaches take over at Farmington, Harrison

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

When fall practice begins in another week, Farmington Public Schools will have three new coaches in charge of varsity programs for the first time.

Two of the coaching changes have taken place at Farmington High School, where Brian Swinehart becomes the girls basketball coach and Luke Juncal the boys soccer coach.

The other move has Peter Mantyla assuming command of the girls basketball program at Harrison High School.

Mantyla is no stranger to basketball in Farmington, however. He played the game at Farmington High, graduating in 1981, and has coached in the system the last four years.

Mantyla was the girls JV coach at Harrison, and most recently, North Farmington for one year in each case, and he spent two seasons coaching girls and boys JV basketball at Farmington.

"I feel real lucky to have this job," said Mantyla, adding he has had plenty of good examples to follow from

the district's other varsity basketball coaches. "The Farmington schools have been real supportive of me, the parents, the administration and the business community — and I hope to return what's been given to me."

Mantyla, who teaches sixth grade at Warner Middle School, replaces Jim Neve, a non-teacher who was dismissed last December after five seasons. He takes over a program that has struggled for years and has been the perennial last-place finisher in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Hawks were 6-95 under Neve but had their best year of the five last fall when they posted a 3-18 record.

"It's going to be a big year for them and me, to get to know them and what I expect of them," Mantyla said. "Our goal for the first year is three-pronged: to find the girls who will put out the effort, who are willing to learn and who are good role models."

Mantyla's long-term goal is to turn the Harrison program into just that. He wants the Hawks to be on a par

Please turn to Page 2

## Cranbrook-O&amp;E event crowns many winners

By Jim Toth  
staff writer

Move over Wimbledon, move over U.S. Open. Make room for the rapidly-growing, extremely-popular Novice Tennis Tournament, co-sponsored by the Cranbrook Tennis Tournament and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

More than 148 competitors combined to make this year's event a "tremendous success," according to tournament director Don Brown.

"We just had tremendous response and had a lot of volunteer help to make it a tremendous success," Brown said. "We had 89 kids the first year, then 92, 94 and 148 this year. This was the best tournament we ever had. . . . It was very successful. Everything was very positive."

The tournament crowned 21 champions playing in eight divisions. An additional 21 players garnered consolation championship honors.

"THE KIDS were very successful dropping and hitting shots," Brown said. "They were courteous, talented and very enthusiastic."

Competing in the boys 10 and under division, Tim Harris (Troy), Dan Weiss (Southfield), John Kazanowski (West Bloomfield), David Cavallaro (Rochester Hills) and Brandon Finkel (Farmington Hills) emerged champions. Harris turned back Jason Stulberg in the finals, Weiss defeated Andrew Haastaja, Kazanowski swatted Ryan Trager, Cavallaro upended Jeff Brethen and Finkel downed Eric Wong.

Consolation winners in the same age group included Ted Wilson, Kevin Ryan, Mark Torga, Charles Wilson and Chris Roebuck. Finalists in

## tennis

the consolation bracket included Andrew Cooke, Andrew Pluff, Andy Walters, Elliot Weiner and Jonathan Golden.

The lone girls under 10 champion was Alexa Shaw (Bloomfield Hills), who defeated Brooke Buchanan. Kimberly Siwiec downed Linda Andrews for the consolation title.

The boys 12 and under division saw Rudy Ruglicsa (Bloomfield Hills), Alex Nefouse (Bloomfield Hills), Darin Egerer (Troy) and Jeff Grimm (Rochester Hills) emerge champions. Ruglicsa slipped past Jeremy Swanson, Nefouse downed Jeff Formanczyk, Egerer upended Sally Amster and Grimm outlasted Clark Elkins.

DAVID HARTER, Alex Wilde and David Laramie battled to consolation titles. Harter outduelled Bill Myer, Wilde clipped Michael Farkas and Laramie downed Adam Fowler.

In girls 12 play, Nicole Ducato (Bloomfield Hills), Carrie Allingham (Birmingham) and Katie Maddux (Troy) won titles. Ducato volleyed past Allison Rackley, Allingham defeated Katie Siedel and Maddux beat Kira Phillips.

Consolation winners included Meredith Adler, Lisa Campbell and Jennifer Marks. Adler nipped Nina Kammer, Campbell held off Emily Sprang and Marks downed Katie McHugh.

Jim Haastaja (Troy), Coalter Powers (Bloomfield Hills) and Derrick Kammer (Bloomfield Hills) battled their way to championship titles in boys under 14 play. Haastaja outlasted Nick Lukacs, Powers overpowered Rick Lebrun and Kammer slammed Kyle Kryweko.

Consolation competition saw Jeff Link battle past Michael Tocco, Justin Perush down John Vincler and Prasad Ambekar drub Jared Halajian.

ALEXANDRA KUNG (Bloomfield Hills) and Shannon Koss (Bloomfield Hills) won titles to share the girls 14 and under spotlight. Kung downed Lisette LeClerc and Koss clipped Natasha Yates.

Heather Smith and Jenny Grimm wrapped up consolation titles by defeating Kate Richard and Emily Maderal, respectively.

Awil Bawle (Troy) earned the lone boys under 16 title by defeating Brent McKay, Ravi Misra and Eric Bershad won their consolation matches over Ryan Wiedmyer and Scott Rakas.

On the girls side in 16 and under play, Brienne O'Laughlin (Orchard Lake) earned a tie with a win over Jennifer Dahn and Meg Leebetter (Farmington Hills) turned back Michelle Bernat.

Elise Hofer downed Neethi Tao and Jill Gough defeated Sarah Musat to win consolation titles.



JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

## Rare illness can't stop all-state soccer player

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Jenny Emmett has willingly faced down countless opponents and prevailed during her three years as an all-state goalkeeper for the Plymouth Salem girls soccer team.

And the 17-year-old from Plymouth is being no less brave and determined as she faces the greatest challenge of her life away from the athletic field.

Emmett is hopeful she will be back in goal for her senior year next spring as she struggles to overcome a rare blood disorder known as aplastic anemia. A bone marrow transplant might eventually be necessary.

Five people per million develop the illness, which causes the bone marrow to stop producing blood cells. The cause is unknown.

"That's what I keep asking myself: 'Why me, out of all the people,'" Emmett said.

"IF YOU look at me, you can't tell anything is wrong with me. I don't want pity; I just want to be like everyone else, like I used to be, and play soccer."

Aplastic anemia is not cancerous but is often confused with leukemia, a cancerous disease in which the opposite occurs and too many cells are produced.

In the case of aplastic anemia, the body isn't producing white cells to fight infection, red cells to carry oxygen and platelets to prevent bleeding and bruising.

A healthy person should have a blood count with 150,000 to 450,000 platelets. When the numbers are under 50,000 an individual is in danger, and imminent action such as a transplant is necessary when they go below 20,000.

Emmett, who became ill last November while in Nashville, Tenn., with the Plymouth Lightning soccer team for a tournament, has been lost

ing 10,000 counts of platelet a month since February. The number was at 24,000, but Emmett had a slight increase this week.

Fortunately for her should a transplant become necessary, Emmett has two tissue matches among family members — her younger sister and soccer teammate, Mackenzie, and older brother, Ryan.

IN THE meantime, Emmett must wait, hoping her body will do a natural turnabout and recover or let the blood count fall to a point that a transplant is the only alternative.

"Unless some kind of miracle happens, she'll have the transplant," her mother, Linda Emmett, said. "Her body will dictate when. We want to give her body every chance to heal itself."

Emmett's strength has decreased considerably and her activity level become more restricted since the

Please turn to Page 2

Jenny Emmett (left) suffers from a rare blood disorder called aplastic anemia. Seated with her are her mother Linda (center) and sister

Mackenzie, who is a potential bone marrow donor.